

Research Report No. 49

Occasional Research Reports

The Michael Luchkovich Collection

prepared by

Serge Cipko

Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press  
University of Alberta  
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## THE MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH COLLECTION

### INTRODUCTION

Thanks to the son of the late Michael Luchkovich, the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta, located in the Norwood district of Edmonton, received as a donation an invaluable collection of materials belonging to the former M.P. and community activist. The Luchkovich holdings are arranged chronologically and thematically. Therein are materials testifying to Luchkovich's frequent interventions on behalf of Ukrainians in Europe and Canada. They are useful, too, for determining the evolution of his views and interests in general, and his development of the concept of multiculturalism in particular. Many of the ideas he expressed on the latter issue in various public forums during his lifetime are still relevant to the debate on national unity today, twenty years later.

The Luchkovich collection consists of 4 volumes, together measuring 110 cm. of files. Volume 1, which mainly contains Luchkovich's personal papers, is the largest at 56 cm. The sizes of Volumes 2-4 are, respectively, 6 cm., 4 cm., and 42 cm.

### BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE OF MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH

Michael Luchkovich was born on November 13, 1892 in the mining town of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, USA. His father, Ephraim, and mother, Maria, emigrated from the Lemko region of Ukraine to the USA in 1887. Unlike an older sister (he had three in all and one brother), he grew up with a poor knowledge of Ukrainian until after his move to Canada in 1907. In the autumn of that year he enrolled at Manitoba College, affiliated with the University of Manitoba, as a grade 11 student. Later he obtained a degree in political science at that university and, in the process, met with other firsts in Canadian Ukrainian history: Jaroslaw William Arsenych, the first Ukrainian lawyer and judge; Orest Zerebko, the first Ukrainian Bachelor of Arts; Fred Hawryluk, the first Ukrainian Inspector of Schools; and Gregory Novak, the first Ukrainian doctor.

In 1917 he received a First Class Teacher's diploma from the Calgary Normal School and taught in districts heavily populated by Ukrainians in East-Central Alberta. In 1926 he was nominated as the United Farmers of Alberta candidate for the Vegreville federal riding and was elected by a substantial majority on September 14, becoming Canada's first federal M.P. of Ukrainian origin. He served two terms in Parliament (1926-1935). The highlight of his parliamentary career came when he was appointed the only Canadian (and British) delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Congress in Bucharest in 1931. After his tenure in office, Luchkovich, who had begun learning Ukrainian by keeping a note-book of Ukrainian phrases and idioms, had mastered the language well enough to be able to turn his attention to translating. In this regard, he is best remembered for his translation of Illia Kiriak's classic novel, *Sons of the Soil*. Having settled in Edmonton, Luchkovich remained very active in local Ukrainian community affairs. A firm believer in multiculturalism, he

helped prepare a brief on behalf of the Edmonton branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee to the Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism in 1964. In 1965 he wrote his autobiography, *A Ukrainian Canadian in Parliament: Memoirs of Michael Luchkovich* (Toronto: Ukrainian Canadian Research Foundation, 1965). Mr. Luchkovich died on April 21, 1973, and was survived by his wife Sophie (née Nikiforuk), two sons, Myron Lusk and Dennis Luchkovich, and a daughter, Mrs. Carol Brown.



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# THE MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH COLLECTION

Vol.	File	Subject	Date
A. PERSONAL AND FAMILY			
1	1	Miscellaneous materials and documents pertaining to Luchkovich's relationship with the Ukrainian community	1928-1972
	2	Marriage certificate	1929
	3	Report of Inspector of Schools on Sheptycki Junior	1929
	4	Financial and legal statements	1928-1970
	5	Profile on niece Luba Novak in journal <i>Manitoba Calling</i> (Winnipeg)	1940
	6	Remnants of an American edition of M. Podvesko's <i>English-Ukrainian Dictionary</i>	1954
	7	Correspondence with editors of various periodicals, North American academics and dignitaries	1938-1965
	8	Materials related to Luchkovich's and other storekeepers' protest to Edmonton City Council's Early Closing By-law	1954-1962
	9	Copies of writings of local Ukrainian community leaders	1955-?
	10	Copy of journal <i>Canadian Author and Bookman</i> (includes article by Luchkovich)	1955
	11	Materials and correspondence regarding Illia Kyriak's novel <i>Sons of the Soil</i> , translated by Luchkovich in 1959	1966-early 1960s
	12	Address and note books	Late 1950s-early 1960s



Volume	File	Subject	Date
13		Letter to "Cousin Anna" containing childhood reminiscences and reflections on contemporary North American society	circa 1960
14		Copies of speeches and addresses	1928-1966
15		Correspondence on Ukrainian community matters	1952-1960
16		Correspondence on Ukrainian community matters	1961-1962
17		Correspondence on Ukrainian community matters	1963-1964
18		Correspondence on Ukrainian community matters	1965-1970
19		Correspondence on Ukrainian community matters	n.d.
20		Correspondence with relatives and close friends	1961-1968
21		Correspondence regarding Luchkovich's memoirs	1960-1967
22		Draft copies of Luchkovich's memoirs in English (incomplete)	n.d.
23		Draft copies and published excerpts of Luchkovich's memoirs in Ukrainian (incomplete)	n.d.
24		Biographical material	n.d.
25		Materials and correspondence referring to the works of author Teodosii Osmachka	1957-1963
26		Correspondence on the subject of <i>Their Land: an Anthology of Ukrainian Short Stories in English</i> edited by Luchkovich	1960-1970
27		Draft copies of contributions to <i>Their Land</i>	n.d.
28		Matters pertaining to Michael Luchkovich's last will and testament	1961-1969
29		Commemoration of the 35th anniversary of Michael Luchkovich's election to Parliament	1961-1962



Volume	File	Subject	Date
30		Baptismal certificate	1962
31		Copy of City of Winnipeg certificate bestowing honorary citizenship on Michael Luchkovich, signed by Mayor Stephen Juba	1962
32		Membership card issued by the Riverdale Community League	1963
33		Published articles by or about Luchkovich	1960s
34		Draft copies of articles by Luchkovich	n.d.
35		Notes taken from various works and on assorted subjects	n.d.
36		Collection of obituaries, including that of his sister Slava Novak	1960s
37		Materials on Luchkovich's and the local Ukrainian community's response to the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism	1960s
38		Banquet held in honour of Michael Luchkovich by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Men's Club	1966
39		Copy of John Nimchuk's memoirs serialized in <i>Ukrains'ki visti</i>	1966
40		Two guest books presented by Edmonton's Ukrainian Professional and Businessmen's Club	1968
41		Materials relating to the building of a memorial to Michael Luchkovich by the local Ukrainian community	1973-1974
42		Obituaries and posthumous profiles on Michael Luchkovich	1973-1986
43		Personal handwritten English-Ukrainian dictionary	n.d.
44		New Year's greeting card, with no addressee, picturing and signed by Pierre Trudeau and children	n.d.

Volume	File	Subject	Date
B. THE PARLIAMENTARY YEARS			
2	1	Copy of a synopsis of the Bills, Amendments, Motions and Divisions effected in the House of Commons	1922-1935
	2	Copy of the Constitution of the Vegreville United Farmers of Alberta Federal Constituency Association	1927
	3	Incomplete letter from citizen in the West on the plight of Western Canadian farmers	1931
	4	United Farmers of Alberta promotional leaflet in Ukrainian	circa 1931
	5	Draft of an article on the subject of New Canadians	early 1930s
	6	Correspondence and Circular titled "Technical Education: R.B. Bennet and an M.P. from the West." Based on a newspaper report detailing Luchkovich's lobbying for the release of government funds for technical education	1928
	7	Report of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Congress held in Bucharest, Romania, in October 1931	1932
	8	Copy of an article by John Fitzallen of Vegreville, "The Depression and Gold"	early 1930s
	9	Letter by a member of the public responding to Luchkovich's political position on Canadian domestic affairs	1932
	10	Copy of a supplement to the <i>Chamber of Commerce Journal</i> dealing with monetary policy	1932
	11	Newspaper profiles on Luchkovich, including an address to Parliament	early 1930s
	12	Copies of the manifesto of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation	1933

Volume	File	Subject	Date
	13	Canadian newspaper reports covering Luchkovich's progress in Parliament	1933-1934
	14	Correspondence touching on the Inter-Parliamentary Union Congress report	1934
	15	Announcement by the Canadian-Ukrainian Club in Toronto of a public lecture to the local Ukrainian community to be delivered by Luchkovich	1934
	16	Correspondence received and newspaper clippings relating to Ukrainian and Soviet political matters	1934-1935
	17	General correspondence	1934-1935
	18	Correspondence received from Ukrainian community members	1935
	19	Correspondence relating to the question of medical officers in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Vegreville	1935
	20	Materials pertaining to the case of farmer Steve Knapp, on whose behalf Luchkovich intervened	1935
	21	Speech to the House of Commons calling for the amendment of the Criminal Code	1935
	22	Letter from well-wisher regretting defeat of Luchkovich at last general election	1935

C. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES -  
POLAND

3	1	Two published copies in Ukrainian of Luchkovich's speech to the Dominion Parliament on May 28, 1929 and quotes from the same from the Canadian press	1929
	2	Two copies of a report by 16 M.P.s and Senators in Poland on punitive expeditions organized by the Polish government	1930

Volume	File	Subject	Date
3		Two copies of a memorandum of Ukrainian organizations in Canada to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. R.B. Bennett and his Ministers, drawing attention to the persecution of Ukrainians in Poland	circa 1930-1931
4		Letters and telegrams to Luchkovich by North American Ukrainian community members responding to Luchkovich's May 8, 1931 House of Commons speech on behalf of Ukrainians in Poland, and on Ukrainian political matters	1930-1931
5		Various letters, including a detailed one to Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, by Luchkovich to national and international political figures and Ukrainian community activists in North America on the subject of Ukrainians in Poland and his House of Commons speech	1931-1932
6		Clippings from the Ukrainian press on the Polish Pacification measures	n.d.
7		Clippings and quotes from the local and international English-language press on the Ukrainian question in Poland	1931
8		Clippings from the Canadian and Ukrainian community press covering Luchkovich's speech in the House of Commons on the plight of Ukrainians in Poland	1931
9		Two copies of a typed address to the House of Commons on behalf of Ukrainians in Poland	1931
10		Protest of the Polish community in Windsor, Ontario, over complaints by Ukrainians to the Canadian government against the Polish regime	1931
11		Booklet, <i>The 'Polish Corridor': The Facts</i>	1933

Volume	File	Subject	Date
D. SCRAPBOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS			
4	1	Booklets and brochures on Ukraine	1953-1954
	2	Published materials on the Soviet Union	1960-1963
	3	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings from the Ukrainian and local press on community and current affairs. Includes notes by Luchkovich	1953-1954
	4	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on local sports, especially on the Edmonton Eskimos. Includes correspondence linked to this topic	1954
	5	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on community and current affairs. Includes handwritten notes and comments by Luchkovich	1954-1955
	6	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on Ukrainian and local current affairs	1955
	7	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on community and current affairs. Includes notes and addresses (business and private)	1954-1955
	8	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on current events, especially Soviet. Includes notes and addresses	1955-1957
	9	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on current affairs, especially on the Soviet Union. Includes notes	1956
	10	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on current issues except one item dating from March 1931 on the subject of the "Melting Pot." Includes addresses and notes	1957
	11	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on community and current affairs. Includes notes and addresses	1957
	12	Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on current affairs. Includes many materials written by or referring to Luchkovich, notes and addresses	1959-1960



Volume	File	Subject	Date
13		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on general Ukrainian current affairs. Includes addresses, notes and correspondence	1960
14		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on Ukrainian and general current affairs. Includes many materials written by or referring to Luchkovich, comments and notes, and correspondence received	1960
15		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, chiefly on the Canadian Ukrainian community and the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Winnipeg. Includes notes	1961
16		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on current Ukrainian and Canadian Ukrainian affairs. Includes notes and addresses	1961
17		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, especially on Ukrainian-related issues. Includes addresses and notes	1961-1962
18		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings of general current affairs. Includes greeting cards and notes	1962
19		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on current affairs and Canadian Ukrainians. Includes extensive notes, addresses and telephone numbers	1962-1963
20		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on general current and local affairs. Includes notes and comments, and letters received by Ukrainian community figures in Edmonton from American academics	1962-1963
21		Scrapbook. Memoirs of Michael Luchkovich serialized in Ukrainian in Edmonton's <i>Ukrains'ki visti</i> . Includes correspondence received from Ol'ha Woycenko in reference to these memoirs, as well as addresses, notes and comments	1961-1963
22		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on general current affairs and on local and Canadian Ukrainian issues. Includes notes	1963



Volume	File	Subject	Date
23		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, especially on multiculturalism. Includes notes	1963
24		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings on local politics. Includes addresses, notes and correspondence	1963
25		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, especially on multiculturalism in Canada and the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, D.C. Includes correspondence, notes and addresses	1963
26		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, especially on local and general current affairs. Includes correspondence, notes and articles by or about Luchkovich	1963
27		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, especially on the Shevchenko monument in Washington, multiculturalism and the Canadian Ukrainian community. Includes Christmas greetings, other correspondence and notes	1963-1964
28		Scrapbook. Newspaper clippings, especially on multiculturalism and Soviet affairs. Includes notes	1964
29		Published literature germane to Ukrainians in Canada	1931-1968
30		Draft copy and proofs of Solomon Goldelman's work, <i>Jewish National Autonomy in Ukraine (1917-1921)</i>	1967
31		Clippings on Shevchenko from the local Ukrainian press	1960s
32		Materials relating to the Ukrainian community and multiculturalism in Canada	1960-1971
33		Clippings on the 75th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada from the local Ukrainian press	1967
34		Clippings from the local Ukrainian and Canadian press on Ukraine and the USSR	1964-1966
35		Miscellaneous newspaper clippings and other literature	1939-1967





